The Hon JaalaPulford MP **The RE ROSS TRUST**

Minister for Regional Development

Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street

EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister

**Review of DEDJTR’s Regional Service Delivery Model and Strategic Directions for Regional Policy – Robinvale Advancing Country Towns Program**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the review and specifically put forward an example of live practice in Robinvale, which is worthy of recognition and ongoing support.

As part of the previous government’s Advancing Country Towns (ACT) Initiative, Robinvale's program has produced wonderful and important results for this small community. I lead an organisation which is a philanthropic trust, The R E Ross Trust, and it has been working in the

Robinvale community prior to the ACT Initiative and I was co-opted to join the ACT Community Reference Group, the only out of region participant. The Trust has contributed time, resources and grants of $556,000 to the Robinvale community over recent years and is intending be a long term 'friend '.

This model of cross community partnership has yielded significant results, which others have alerted you to. My great concern is that that Government's investment is poised to consolidate significant community building work and for the sake of the resource which has enabled this all to happen, Mr Glenn Stewart, much will be lost.

The Trust has already contributed along with the Robinvale District Health Service, Swan Hill Rural City Council and the Dept of Education and Early Childhood as an interim measure, the capacity for Mr Stewart to continue this work in the belief it is crucial to the Robinvale community continuing to make progress.

I strongly urge you not 'to throw the baby out with the bath water' and use the example of

Robinvale, as a community truly trying to chart its own course for a better future.

Yours sincerely

Signature of Sylivia Admans, Chief Executive, The RE Ross Trust

Sylvia Admans

Chief Executive Officer